

Message Text

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43

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO SOLZHENITSYN EXPULSION

REF: WARSAW 0882

1. THE POLISH CENTRAL PRESS ON FEB 15 CARRIED TWO COMMENTARIES ON SOLZHENITSYN. ONE, A NOVOSTI ITEM BY BORIS KOROLEV IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY, PURPORTS TO GIVE THE IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL RATIONALE FOR THE EXPULSION. THE SECOND ARTICLE IS A REVIEW IN TRYBUNA LUDU OF THE FEB ISSUE OF NOWE DROGI, THE THEORETICAL AND POLITICAL MONTHLY OF THE PZPR CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHICH INCLUDED AN EDITORIAL ATTACK ON SOLZHENITSYN FOR GULAG ARCHIPELAGO. THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT MENTION THE EXPULSION.

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2. ENTITLED "SOLZHENITSYN OR THE FALSE CARD," THE

KOROLEV ARTICLE IS LABELED "AP NOVOSTI ESPECIALLY FOR ZYCHIE." KOROLEV WRITES THAT ONE CAN BEGIN TO SPEAK OF SOLZHENITSYN IN THE PAST TENSE BECAUSE HE HAS CEASED TO EXIST, OR AT LEAST IN A FORM USEFUL TO THE OPPONENTS OF DETENTE. HE SAID THAT THE ANTI-SOVIET OPPONENTS OF DETENTE WERE COUNTING ON SOLZHENITSYN BECOMING A MARTYR AND WERE PREPARING TO PLAY THIS "TRUMP CARD" UNTIL FOILED BY THE DECISION OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET TO DEPRIVE SOLZHENITSYN OF HIS CITIZENSHIP AND EXPEL HIM FROM THE USSR. "SOLZHENITSYN IN THE WEST- THIS IS NOT SOLZHENITSYN IN THE USSR. HOW LONG WILL THE TWILIGHT LAST? A MONTH, THREE? THAT DEPENDS UPON THE EFFORTS AND METHODS HIS PATRONS DEDICATE TO THE REANIMATION OF A POLITICAL CORPSE." KOROLEV CONCLUDES THAT "SOLZHENITSYN HIMSELF, SERVING ANTI-DETENTE AND ANTI-SOVIET ACTIONS IN THE WEST, NOW BECOMES AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR OF THE WEST."

3. THE TRYBUNA LUDU REVIEW OF THE LATEST ISSUE OF NOWE DROGI IS ENTITLED "PROBLEMS OF THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE", AND, FOR THE MOST PART, DISCUSSES ARTICLES WHICH ELABORATE THE THEME OF THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE DURING AN ERA OF PEACFUL COEXISTENCE. IN THAT CONTEXT, THE AUTHOR SAYS, A NOWE DROGI EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A NEW ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN," DESERVES SPECIAL ATTENTION. THE REVIEW ACCUSES SOLZHENITSYN OF TAKING AN OPENLY ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY AND EXTREMELY REACTIONARY POSITION AND ADDS THAT HIS WRITING IS SLANDEROUS NOT ONLY OF THE SOVIET UNION BUT OF SOCIALISM IN GENERAL. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE NOTED THIS THEME HERE. PREVIOUS COMMENTARIES HAVE DEALT ONLY WITH SOLZHENITSYN'S ATTACKS ON THE SOVIET UNION AND HIS ALLEGED DEFENSE OF SLAVS WHO COLLABORATED WITH HITLER. END COMMENT.

4. THE LENGTHY NOWE DROGI EDITORIAL IS THE MOST DETAILED AND AUTHORITATIVE ATTACK ON SOLZHENITSYN TO APPEAR IN POLAND. IT ALSO ATTACKS SAKHAROV AND ALLUDES TO THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER UNNAMED DISSIDENTS. IT ALLEGES THAT GULAG ARCHipelago HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH "FEVERISH HASTE" FOR PUBLICATION SIMULTANEOUSLY IN FOREIGN-LANGUAGE VERSIONS BY HARPER AND ROW, COLLINS, AND SCHERZ VERLAG. IT ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENTERS INTO A LENGTHY DEFENSE OF THE SOVIET UNION AGAINST SOLZHENITSYN'S CHARGES, ALTHOUGH THE NATURE OF THE LATTER IS NEVER MADE QUITE CLEAR.
DAVIES

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